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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 17, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: Cooler weather has settled in throughout much of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth continued to dry out in most areas. However, scattered showers made it difficult for farmers to get in the fields in select areas. Overall, five days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included plowing, finishing the last cutting of hay, harvesting corn and soybeans, sowing barley and wheat, harvesting grapes, spreading manure, lime, and fertilizer, and preparing equipment for winter.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 17, 2004

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	3	81	16

Crops: Corn progress remained well ahead of schedule last week. There are several reports of yields at or near record levels also. Fifty-three percent of this year's crop has been harvested, markedly ahead of historic averages. Corn crop condition declined slightly from last week with 83 percent of the crop rated as either good or excellent. This can be attributed to negative effects stemming from last month's flooding. The soybean harvest is under way and now stands at 27 percent complete. Ninety percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent. Farmers continue to plant barley and winter wheat at a rate ahead of historic trends. Sixty-seven percent of winter wheat has now been planted. The quality of hay made this past week dwindled slightly when compared with the previous week. Sixty-four percent of hay made last week was rated as either good or excellent.

Livestock: Pasture conditions remain in tough shape as a result of this year's rainfall. Pasture conditions now stand at 5 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

U.S. As of October 10, 2004: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, benefitting winter wheat emergence and late-season development of summer crops. Corn: Eighty-eight percent of the acreage had reached maturity, 6 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind normal. Harvest was 34 percent complete, compared with 35 percent last year and 39 percent for the 5-year average. The crop advanced rapidly to maturity in the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains under warm, dry conditions, although much of the progress was probably due to the killing effect of widespread freezing temperatures late in the previous week. Harvest progressed steadily in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, where cool, dry conditions prevailed. Winter Wheat: Growers had planted 70 percent of their crop, 1 point behind last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Emergence had occurred over 44 percent of the acreage, 1 point ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the average. Soybeans: Ninety-four percent of the acreage had reached the leaf dropping stage, 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Producers had harvested 58 percent of their acreage, 4 points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 17, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 17, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	65	38	51	-3	1.90	3	26.44	1.68	85	2,741	150	4,551
Franklin	63	33	49	-2	0.79	4	38.88	12.38	101	2,583	208	4,412
Meadville	63	31	48	-3	0.75	3	34.11	7.45	93	2,430	255	4,222
Mercer	66	24	46	-5	1.12	3	32.69	7.49	83	2,047	-306	3,804
Springboro	67	29	48	-6	0.63	4	34.54	10.63	103	2,357	-183	4,135
Warren	62	33	48	-3	0.47	4	40.59	13.79	109	2,430	136	4,236
North Central												
Bradford Region	61	28	46	-2	0.28	2	28.64	2.00	99	1,985	340	3,716
Emporium	68	34	49	2	0.35	4	37.12	10.86	96	2,577	704	4,404
Kane	57	24	40	-6	0.41	3	34.25	7.03	87	1,246	-359	2,859
Laporte	63	34	46	-5	1.37	5	45.15	20.51	106	2,209	-136	3,975
Lock Haven	68	34	51	1	0.52	4	44.39	20.21	82	2,896	400	4,796
Port Allegany	64	32	47	-2	0.36	3	32.35	6.99	92	2,160	340	3,916
Renovo	66	34	50	-2	0.51	6	36.93	12.75	97	2,803	307	4,675
Ridgway	68	32	47	-1	0.59	4	35.96	9.70	81	2,125	252	3,888
Stevenson Dam	69	35	50	3	0.50	3	38.18	11.92	89	2,666	793	4,515
Towanda	61	35	49	-2	0.70	4	32.71	12.23	88	2,697	333	4,536
Wellsboro	63	31	47	-1	0.50	4	38.50	17.84	90	2,106	344	3,871
Williamsport	67	36	52	-1	0.78	4	36.17	12.25	102	3,060	308	4,971
Northeast												
Hawley	67	31	48	-2	0.36	3	37.12	13.91	74	2,289	272	4,076
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	61	35	50	-3	0.83	4	31.24	8.69	83	2,811	202	4,683
Susquehanna	64	33	50	2	1.16	4	38.24	13.33	87	2,739	833	4,590
West Central												
Butler	64	32	49	-3	0.62	3	36.96	12.04	105	2,556	90	4,379
New Castle	68	33	52	1	1.49	3	38.76	15.84	79	2,852	381	4,698
Slippery Rock	65	33	50	1	1.19	4	37.16	12.74	101	2,650	437	4,500
Central												
Altoona/Blair	65	34	50	-2	0.71	4	37.44	15.54	97	2,744	121	4,588
DuBois	63	32	48	-3	0.37	5	36.87	11.80	119	2,396	141	4,196
Lewistown	69	36	52	-2	1.09	4	34.23	10.78	78	3,071	190	4,977
Middletown	66	42	55	-1	0.52	4	39.42	16.07	85	3,536	273	5,480
Prince Gallitzi	63	31	48	-2	0.77	4	36.77	8.71	88	2,405	298	4,210
Selinsgrove	65	37	50	-2	1.35	4	37.07	12.62	87	2,960	278	4,848
State College	65	34	50	-2	0.71	4	36.77	14.65	82	2,823	247	4,688
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	65	36	52	-2	1.75	4	34.52	9.12	76	3,195	218	5,114
Lehighton	63	34	51	-3	1.35	3	38.76	13.35	94	2,802	-65	4,688
Matamoras	69	31	49	-4	0.45	3	33.41	7.84	77	2,489	-88	4,322
Tobyhanna	70	34	50	4	0.71	4	42.80	15.35	109	2,445	710	4,261
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	66	37	51	-2	0.74	5	30.99	7.83	93	3,069	424	4,950
Derry	63	34	49	-3	0.43	4	40.11	16.04	95	2,750	255	4,603
Myersdale	70	32	48	-4	0.61	3	32.32	5.97	82	2,227	-235	4,026
Mount Pleasant	69	32	49	-2	1.11	4	35.49	8.01	74	2,713	485	4,552
Pittsburgh Intl	62	33	50	-3	1.09	4	34.65	13.01	91	3,085	316	4,964
Rector	67	30	48	-3	0.61	4	39.54	12.06	106	2,762	534	4,611
Waynesburg	65	34	50	-1	1.10	4	34.86	11.33	88	2,823	264	4,683
South Central												
Biglerville	67	36	52	-4	0.89	4	38.66	16.40	85	3,205	15	5,113
Everett	71	32	50	-3	0.21	4	34.69	13.26	78	2,423	-196	4,237
Hanover	67	37	52	-3	0.32	4	34.41	12.15	75	3,316	126	5,229
Shippensburg	71	36	53	-3	0.84	4	41.76	20.12	83	3,359	181	5,270
South Mountain	61	34	49	-4	0.67	3	35.92	14.02	69	2,665	51	4,501
York	66	35	53	-2	0.47	3	28.78	5.21	68	3,310	125	5,231
Southeast												
Green Lane	70	38	54	1	1.05	4	39.22	14.64	80	3,543	699	5,492
Hamburg	65	36	53	3	0.96	4	36.41	7.89	89	3,213	636	5,134
Hopewell	66	38	53	-4	0.85	4	38.29	12.49	103	3,264	-102	5,190
Lancaster	66	37	53	-2	0.81	4	34.19	9.34	88	3,333	321	5,266
Neshaminy Falls	71	39	55	2	0.38	4	36.09	7.72	73	3,532	562	5,473
New Holland	66	36	52	-3	0.89	4	35.88	11.03	88	3,323	311	5,242
Philadelphia	70	43	56	-1	0.37	5	31.86	7.85	74	3,889	401	5,845
Philadelphia NE	70	40	55	-2	0.29	4	35.44	11.43	78	3,756	268	5,709
Reading	65	38	53	-1	0.91	4	36.15	9.73	81	3,382	431	5,317
Valley Forge Na	70	32	53	-4	1.16	4	38.66	12.86	70	3,364	-2	5,292
Willow Grove	67	40	54	2	0.14	2	29.85	1.48	80	3,482	512	5,429

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher (EXT) - Apple crop is nearly harvested.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Potato harvesting should be complete. Producers are beginning to harvest high moisture corn. Corn is between 20 and 30 percent moisture. Frost this week.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Earl J Long - The corn harvest is progressing between rains and has dried out nicely with some as low as 19 percent moisture. Yields are good. Good seed for winter wheat is short as planting is near completion.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Crops are mature. Some concerns about stalk quality if corn. Reports of low moisture, so harvest is picking up.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Paul G Benchoff - Barley is emerging. We're seeing good growth in our pastures with weeds being suppressed. Soybean moisture is too high.

LEHIGH COUNTY, William T Boyd - Wheat is all planted with some emerging. Finished with hay and combined beans until it rained. It keeps raining, and the grass keeps growing.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Kyle Henninger - Harvested beans until it rained and then cut corn over the weekend.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Roy A Whitmoyer - Some wet spots in corn fields really show up.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - The good weather had to come to an end sometime. An inch of rain put a halt to field work by mid week. Farmers stopped harvesting corn to plant wheat, and it is good they did. Later corn fields were chopped for silage. Soybeans have yet to be harvested; still some with green pods. Heaviest frost of the season on the 18th.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, Robert H Fulmer - Corn yields are the best we have ever had. We're seeing very good yields with soybeans as well.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - Corn growers are reporting record yields. Corn still standing in the field has dried to an average of 16 percent moisture. Storage for the record corn crop has become a problem for many growers.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Because of the continuing dry conditions, soybean and corn harvesting continues well ahead of the normal pace. Downed corn and soybeans from last month's storms have caused some yield losses, but most of the wind-damaged crop can be harvested by going lower and slower. Overall yields are well above average.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - Corn and soybean harvest continues well. Yields still remain high and should result in record corn crop average per acre. Storage problems are beginning due to large crop.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 17, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	74	47	62
Corn, mature	96	70	82
Corn, harvested	53	28	39
Barley, planted	96	66	78
Barley, emerged	69	41	58
Wheat, planted	67	52	59
Wheat, emerged	30	28	38
Soybeans, harvested	27	25	21
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	81	63	75
Grapes, harvested	86	46	82

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 17, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	4	13	41	42
Soybeans	0	1	9	51	39
Quality of hay made	1	11	24	43	21
Pasture	5	5	26	51	13

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